

# OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT  
☐ CHARGE TO

UNCLASSIFIED

Classification

IS. AUTH.

REASON(S)

MAY 11 2 04 PM '66

Origin

ACTION: CIRCULAR TO ALL NATO CAPITALS  
NICOSIA

Info:

STATE 192165

AFL-CIO Statement on Greek Situation.

AFL-CIO Executive Council at its regular meeting in Washington May 9 unanimously adopted statement entitled "Crisis in Greece", urging US Government to consider suspending aid to Greece until "normal parliamentary democracy has been re-established."

AFL-CIO Council also appealed to ICFTU to mobilize free world labor in support bona fide free trade unions and all other democratic groups in Greece.

For your information following is full text AFL-CIO statement.

ONE The Executive Council of the AFL-CIO voices its deep concern about the grave turn of recent political developments in Greece. This country, the ancient cradle of democracy, is now the victim of a military coup d'etat by a handful of extremely reactionary colonels. In defiance of the will of the people and their king, this self-appointed junta has resorted to naked

EUR - Godson: sj

EUR - Mr. Godson

S/IL - Mr. Zempel (subst.)

NETS - Mr. Bergman (subst.)

UNCLASSIFIED

Classification

REPRODUCTION FROM THIS COPY IS PROHIBITED UNLESS "OFFICIAL USE ONLY" OR "UNCLASSIFIED"

UNCLASSIFIED  
Classification

armed force. It has suspended the constitution and parliament, dissolved the political parties, abolished civil rights, seized the headquarters of trade unions and arrested hundreds of trade unionists. Among the thousands thrown into jail, there are devoted democrats, conservatives and monarchists. Martial law and censorship of the press have been proclaimed. The new government, installed by the junta, rules by decree, intimidation and terror.

The colonels are seeking to hide the true nature and aims of their brutal dictatorship by conjuring up the danger of a Communist take-over. Actually, their criminal assault against democracy will only serve the Communists who are also mortal enemies of freedom.

Unfortunately, the political situation in Greece had deteriorated in recent years. The political ineptness of the king, the machinations of former Prime Minister George Papandreu, the pro-Communist activities and plottings of his son Andreas, the failures of the conservative government have all contributed to weakening the democratic institutions and aggravating the political instability of the country.

The military dictatorship is no answer to political instability or the threat of Communism. On the contrary, such tyrannical rule only sows the seeds of civil war and provides the Communists with a pretext of posing as defenders of constitutional rights. Communism cannot be

UNCLASSIFIED

Classification

UNCLASSIFIED  
Classification

defeated by abolishing democracy. The Communists can be defeated by removing the economic and social grievances which they hypocritically seek to exploit. It must not be forgotten that in the critical post-war years it was the free trade union forces which prevented the Communist take-over of the labor unions and the country. American labor played a vital role in helping to safeguard Greek democracy in this crucial struggle.

Moreover, since Greece is a cornerstone of NATO, political disorder in that country endangers the defense system of the Western alliance in the Mediterranean and Greek-Turkish cooperation, particularly in view of the continuing difficulties over Cyprus.

For all these reasons, the Executive Council of the AFL-CIO urges our government to express firm opposition to the reactionary junta. Our country, which has done so much to promote human well-being and freedom in Greece and Europe (Truman Doctrine), should mobilize its influence and good offices for hastening a return to representative government, the restoration of parliamentary institutions, political liberties, and free trade unions in Greece, and the release of the political prisoners. The Executive Council urges our government to consider the suspension of aid to Greece until normal parliamentary democracy has been re-established. We appeal to the ICFTU to mobilize free world labor in support of the bona fide free trade unions and all other democratic organizations in Greece. UNQTE

END

UNCLASSIFIED

Classification

RUSK